

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /108 W

----- 059984

R 111358Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0174

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3364

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KAUL'S CALL ON THE VICE PRESIDENT

1. KAUL'S INVITATION TO VICE PRESIDENT FORD TO VISIT INDIA WAS GIVEN QUITE BRIEF COVERAGE IN THE PRESS HERE MARCH 10. COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA-LINE PATRIOT CARRIED AN AP ITEM CAPTIONED "GERALD FORD TO VISIT INDIA." IN A SEPARATE COMMENT ON IMPERIALIST EMMISSARIES AND DIEGO GARCIA, PATRIOT SAID THE INVITATION TO FORD "COULD NOT HAVE BEEN LESS UNTIMELY" (SIC).

2. IN A PIECE BASED ON KAUL'S BRIEFING, PARASURAM REPORTED IN THE SUNDAY STANDARD THAT VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD ARE EXPECTED TO COME IN AUTUMN. FORD AND KAUL HAD AGREED THERE IS NO BASIC CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US AND THE TIME IS RIPE FOR STRENGTHENING INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THEY HAD DISCUSSED DIEGO GARCIA, THE CURRENT IRRITANT, AND KAUL TOLD FORD HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY THE IDEA OF A CONFERENCE OF LITTORAL STATES AND OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES. MR. BREZHNEV HAD

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ALREADY AGREED. FORD, LIKE THE SECRETARY, KEPT AN OPEN MIND.

THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE ON DIEGO GARCIA SEEMS TO HAVE HARDENED.
THE SECRETARY HAD INDICATED EARLIER NO AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WOULD
BE SENT INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN IN THE FUTURE. BUT THE US HAS NOW
DONE THIS. A CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN UNDER UN AUSPICES COULD,
HOWEVER, DEFUSE THE SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: KAUL CONTINUES TO BE THE ONLY INDIAN OFFICIAL
WE'VE HEARD PLUGGING THE INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE IDEA.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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